

## CLAIMS

1. A denim-like clothing mainly comprising a woven or knitted fabric and having a whitening index of less than or equal to Class 4, the woven or knitted fabric comprising ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers on its surface, and the whitening index being expressed in a grey scale for assessing change in color specified in Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS).

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442/89

2. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the whitening index is from Class 4 to Class 1 as expressed in the grey scale for assessing change in color specified in JIS.

3. The denim-like clothing according to claim 2, wherein the whitening index is from Class 4 to Class 1-2 as expressed in the grey scale for assessing change in color specified in JIS.

4. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the denim-like clothing comprises a woven or knitted fabric having a roughness index of equal to or more than 3 micrometers as determined with a measuring machine, KES-FB4.

5. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the roughness index is from 3 to 20 micrometers as determined with a measuring machine, KES-FB4.

6. The denim-like clothing according to claim 6, wherein the roughness index is from 4 to 15 micrometers as determined with a measuring machine, KES-FB4.

7. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the woven or knitted fabric is one selected from voile, mat USU (mat worsted), jacquard, corduroy, amunzen, cord, and pile stitch.

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8. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the woven or knitted fabric is one selected from taffeta, poplin, grey sheeting, and SMOOTHNESS (interlock fabric).

9. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers are ultrafine fibers having a fineness of less than or equal to 0.6 dtex or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers having a fineness of less than or equal to 0.6 dtex.

10. The denim-like clothing according to claim 9, wherein the ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers are ultrafine fibers having a fineness of less than or equal to 0.3 dtex or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers having a fineness of less than or equal to 0.3 dtex.

11. The denim-like clothing according to claim 10, wherein the fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers are multicore fibers.

12. The denim-like clothing according to claim 11, wherein the multicore fibers comprise a polyethylene terephthalate polymer as a multicore component.

13. The denim-like clothing according to claim 11, wherein the multicore fibers comprise, as a matrix component, a polyester containing from 1.5% to 15% by mole of a  $-SO_3M$  group, where M is a hydrogen atom, an alkaline metal or an alkaline earth metal.

14. The denim-like clothing according to claim 13, wherein the matrix component is a polyester containing from 3% to 12% by mole of a  $-SO_3M$  group, where M is a hydrogen atom, an alkaline metal or an alkaline earth metal.

15. The denim-like clothing according to claim 13, wherein the matrix

component has been treated with an acid.

16. The denim-like clothing according to claim 11, wherein the multicore fibers are conjugated fibers comprising a matrix component and plural segments of a core component, and wherein the plural segments of the core component in the form of wedges are radially arranged in the matrix component in cross section to thereby form a spoke- or radius-form cross section.

17. The denim-like clothing according to claim 11, wherein the multicore fibers each comprise different components, and wherein the different components act as a matrix component with respect to each other and can be separated from each other.

18. The denim-like clothing according to claim 17, wherein the different components are a polyamide and a polyester.

19. The denim-like clothing according to claim 1, wherein the denim-like clothing is dyed.

20. A method of producing a denim-like clothing, the method comprising the step of flexing or rubbing to thereby yield the denim-like clothing as claimed in claim 1.

21. The method of producing a denim-like clothing according to claim 20, wherein the flexing or rubbing step is performed by stonewashing.

22. The method of producing a denim-like clothing according to claim 20, the flexing or rubbing step is performed in combination with a coloring operation.

23. The method of producing a denim-like clothing according to claim 20, further comprising, prior to the flexing or rubbing step, the step of treatment with

442/200  
3/1

an acidic treatment solution with pH of from 1.5 to 4 at temperatures from 100°C to 140°C to thereby yield the denim-like clothing as claimed in claim 14.

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